

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough consideration provided in the present application. Claims 4-13 are currently pending in the instant application. Claims 1-3 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 4 and 8 are independent. Claims 4-13 have been added for the Examiner's consideration. Applicant submits that the subject matter of claims 4-13 is fully supported by the original written description, including, but not limited to pages 8-26 of the specification and original claims 1-3. Reconsideration of the present application is earnestly solicited.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Edgar (U.S. Patent No. 5,266,805). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejections, but merely to expedite the prosecution of the present application, claims 1-3 have been cancelled. Accordingly, Applicant submits that this rejection has been obviated and/or rendered moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Edgar in view of Hibino et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,751,343) or Brownstein (U.S. 4,482,924). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In light of the cancellation of claims 1-3, Applicant submits that this rejection has been obviated and/or rendered moot. With respect to claims 4-13, Applicant submits that the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the unique combination of limitations of claims 4 and 8. The following information is provided for the Examiner's consideration with respect to claims 4-13. However, Applicant submits that these comments are not being submitted responsive to any statutory rejection advanced by the Examiner.

The Examiner has suggested that Edgar describes an image reading unit which reads a mark at a location corresponding to an image defect and an image correction unit for correcting the image data at that location. However, the reflective scanner of the claimed invention reads a print image on which an identifying mark is provided at a position corresponding to an image defect. However, in Edgar, obscured pixels are marked (as shown by block 84 in Fig. 4; col. 8, line 66 to col. 9, line 3; and col. 9, line 36) and the obscured pixels are marked *after* an image is read with red, green, blue and infrared lights with

respect to the infrared pixel sizes. In the claimed invention, the image is read with the identifying mark already provided thereon.

In Edgar, media defects are automatically mapped with the use of red, green, blue and infrared light, or with the use of the infrared light only. The mapping of the image data results in an image map with the defects located after image reading for subsequent, automatic correction, e.g., with an automatic fill-in algorithm. In contrast, the defects in the claimed invention are provided with an identifying mark. The identifying mark may later be used to automatically correct the defect with the image correction apparatus of the claimed invention and/or to create an enlarged image of the region identified by the identifying mark on the display.

Edgar automatically detects defects with the infrared mapping process and automatically corrects these same defects that have been identified by the mapping process. However, there is no teaching or suggestion in the Edgar reference (or any of the other references) that adding an enlarged image of the defect area on a display would be beneficial. In the claimed invention, the enlarged image allows the identified defect areas to be viewed in greater detail. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not modify the Edgar reference to include an enlarged view since the defects are automatically identified and corrected without any operator input. Therefore, the Examiner has not

established a proper prima facie case of obviousness since the Examiner has not provided any teachings in the references themselves as to why an operator would need an enlarged view of the defect in Edgar, i.e., since the defects are corrected automatically in Edgar. Accordingly, claims 4-13 should be allowed and the present application should be permitted to issue.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining references cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but merely to show the state-of-the-art, no further comments are deemed necessary with respect thereto.

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

Applicant respectfully petitions under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) and § 1.17 for a one-month extension of time in which to respond to the Examiner's Office Action. The Extension of Time Fee in the amount of **\$120.00** is attached hereto.

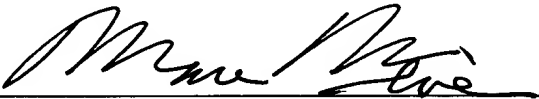
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In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Matthew T. Shanley, Registration No. 47,074 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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